

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 OMB-01 /087 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3252

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

USMISSION USUN NY

USCINCEUR

USCONCNAVEUR

COMSIXTHFLT

FOSIF ROTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 3202

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, PFOR, AG, MO, SP, SS

SUBJ: SPANISH SAHARA: ABDELGHANI TO MADRID

1. PRESS OCTOBER 30 ANNOUNCED THAT ALGERIAN INTERIOR MINISTER MOHAMED BENAHMED BENAHMED ABDELGHANI ARRIVED IN MADRID IN AFTERNOON OF OCTOBER 29 AND MET WITH FONMIN CORTINA. ACCORDING TO GOOD SOURCE, PAPERS SAY, DISCUSSION LASTED TWO HOURS AND WERE FRANK AND CORDIAL. TALKS WILL RESUME OCTOBER 30 AT SAME HIGH LEVEL, ACCORDING TO PRESS. ABDELGHANI WAS ACCOMPANIED BY SMAIL HAMDANI, DEPUTY SECY GENERAL IN PRESIDENCY AND GOA SAHARAN ACTION OFFICER, SLIMANE HOFFMAN, A COUNSELOR IN PRESIDENCY AND MOHAMED ABERKANE, FONMINISTRY DIRECTOR FOR NORTH AMERICAN AND WESTERN EUROPEAN AFFAIRS.

2. PRESS DESCRIBED ABDELGHANI'S TALKS AS FIRST ALGERIAN-SPANISH MEETINGS ON QUESTION OF SELF-DETERMINATION FOR SAHARAN PEOPLE, AND IN PUBLIC STATEMENT ABDELGHANI
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ADDED THAT HIS MISSION WAS IN THE FRAMEWORK OF CONSUL-

TATIONS BETWEEN INTERESTED AND CONCERNED PARTIES BY SC RESOLUTION. FOREIGN JOURNALIST HERE TELLS US THAT ABDELGHANI WAS CLOSELY QUESTIONED BY PRESS AT AIRPORT UPON HIS ARRIVAL AND WHEN ASKED IF IT WAS POSSIBLE THAT ALGERIA WOULD AGREE TO MOROCCAN-MAURITANIAN PARTITION OF COLONY REPLIED EMPHATICALLY, "YOU ANTICIPATE." HE IS ALSO REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THAT HIS TALKS WOULD BE BILATERAL WITH GOS AND NOT QUADRIpartite.

3. FOLLOWING HIS VISIT, WALDHEIM SENT BOUMEDIENE MESSAGE WHICH APPEARED IN PRESS OCTOBER 30. WALDHEIM SAID HIS TALKS WITH BOUMEDIENE HAD ENCOURAGED HIM IN HOPE THAT PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO PROBLEM COULD BE FOUND. ON OCTOBER 29, BOUMEDIENE RECEIVED ANDRE LEVIN, WALDHEIM'S SPECIAL ENVOY, WHO HAS NOW LEFT FOR NEW YORK, ACCORDING TO PRESS.

4. INTERESTING FOOTNOTE TO GREEN MARCH LOGISTICS WAS MOROCCAN CHARGE'S COMMENT TO EMBOFF OCTOBER 29 THAT IT WAS MOROCCAN ARMY (SIC) NOT SPANISH WHO ONE MONTH AGO HAD PLANTED MINES IN NORTHERN SAHARA. MARCHERS, THEREFORE, COULD EASILY BE GUIDED THROUGH FIELDS, ACCORDING TO CHARGE. CHARGE IN GENERALLY EUPHORIC MOOD AND NOTED THAT PRESENCE OF MOROCCAN PHOSPHATES OFFICE DIRECTOR LAMRANI IN MADRID SUGGESTED STRONGLY THAT STRATEGIC QUESTIONS SETTLED AND THAT PARTIES NOW TALKING TURKEY.

5. COMMENT: IN DISPATCHING ABDELGHANI TO MADRID FOR "FIRST TALKS ON SELF-DETERMINATION," GOA MAY WELL WISH TO SIGNAL TOUGH ATTITUDE TOWARDS ANY SPANISH-MOROCCAN DEAL WHICH DOES NOT PERMIT SAHARANS SELF-DETERMINATION. WE NOTE OCTOBER 30 REPORT FROM BBC, WHICH ON OCTOBER 29 SAID BOUTEFLIKA WOULD BE ALGERIAN ENVOY, THAT IN HIS TALKS WITH SPANISH ABDELGHANI INSISTED ON REFERENDUM FOR COLONY. ABDELGHANI'S REPORTED STATEMENT THAT HIS TALKS WOULD BE BILATERAL STRONGLY SUGGESTS THAT HE IS IN MADRID TO SET FORTH ALGERIAN POSITION ON SAHARA AND NOT TO NEGOTIATE SOLUTION TO PROBLEM.

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